

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 33, I was unable to be present for the vote on H.R. 357. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN BLANKENSHIP'S RETIREMENT

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to celebrate the retirement of John Lee Blankenship. For the past 43 years, Mr. Blankenship has made it his life's work to protect and serve the citizens of Brazoria County. In February 1971, John Blankenship enrolled in the Angleton Police Department Academy because several of his friends were officers. Six months later, John graduated from the Academy and joined the ranks of the Angleton Police Department. John's sense of duty did not stop with the Angleton PD; he also joined and became a member of the Angleton Volunteer Fire Department.

As years went by, John's dedication enabled him to move up the ranks to become Criminal Investigator for the Brazoria County District Attorney's office in 1984. Nine years later, John was again promoted, this time to Chief Investigator. Throughout his career, John had received numerous recognitions for his achievements in law enforcement. In 1983, he was awarded the Investigator of the Year Award by Brazoria County Sheriffs Department. In 2001, John was named an Officer of the Year Finalist by the 100 Club of Brazoria County. Most recently, in 2013, John was awarded the Chuck Dennis Memorial Award, Prosecutor Investigator by the Texas District and County Attorney's Association.

While retirement may take some getting used to, John and his wife of 44 years, Maggie, have plans to take an Alaskan Cruise, as well as a road trip in his motorhome to various destinations throughout the United States. It is my great hope that you will enjoy retirement with your darling wife, two beautiful children, Mindy and Chara, and their families including your four wonderful grandchildren. Thank you, John, for your 43 years of service. Your commitment and dedication to God, family, the citizens of Brazoria County, and the great State of Texas has been unparalleled and for that we recognize you today on the floor of the 113th Congress.

VIEWS ON FARM BILL SECTION 12313

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House agreed to the con-

ference report on H.R. 2642, the Farm Bill. Section 12313 of this legislation addresses an issue that should not go unnoticed, and I would like to make its intent clear.

In the 112th Congress, the House passed H.R. 2541, the Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act, introduced by Representative HERRERA BEUTLER. The stated intent of this legislation was to return Clean Water Act permitting of silvicultural operations around forest roads to the same standards that applied before recent court decisions created uncertainty about which standards should be used. Before court actions, a Clean Water Act permit was not required for nursery operations, site preparation, reforestation and subsequent cultural treatment, thinning, prescribed burning, pest and fire control, harvesting operations, surface drainage, or road use, construction, and maintenance. Permits were only required for activities that involved rock crushing, gravel washing, log sawing and log storage. That standard has worked for many years, and I support continuing that standard.

However, as originally written, H.R. 2541 could have created legal ambiguity on what should be covered with a Clean Water Act permit. I introduced an amendment to H.R. 2541 in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee clarifying that activities exempt from permitting are limited to the silvicultural activities specified in the bill, and not all silvicultural activities. The language I sponsored and set forth as an amendment of this bill is generally the same as that in Section 12313 of the Farm Bill. Thankfully, the Farm Bill addresses this issue without ambiguity. Put simply, those activities which required a Clean Water Act permit in the past should continue to do so. Those which did not should continue to be exempt.

I appreciate Representative HERRERA BEUTLER's efforts on this issue and I am pleased that this issue has been addressed without ambiguity.

HONORING PORT RICHMOND ON PATROL "PROP" ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Port Richmond On Patrol, better known as "PROP," as it celebrates 25 years as a town watch and civic organization in the City of Philadelphia.

In 1988, in the wake of the Sean Daily murder that rocked the close knit blue collar neighborhood of Port Richmond when a 17 year old local teenager was beaten and killed by another group of teens, a handful of neighbors sprung into action to keep their neighborhood safe.

Three women were instrumental in the birth of PROP: Phyllis Hackimer, Helene LaBenz, and Jackie Saier. These women were involved from the very beginning, working to keep their neighborhood and their kids safe and secure the streets of Port Richmond. PROP Townwatch started out at Phyllis' kitchen table with coffee and pound cake. The first meeting drew hundreds of people wanting to be the

eyes and ears of Port Richmond in the 24th Police District.

Through the years, PROP patrolled the streets of Port Richmond every Friday and Saturday night, both in personal vehicles and even on foot patrol, and then initiated the "Eyes and Ears on Your Block" program that invited neighbors to look around and hear what's happening on their block and street and encouraged them to report suspicious behavior.

Hackimer and LaBenz have shared a stoop on Port Richmond's 3600 Gaul Street for decades and raised their kids alongside one another as next door neighbors and friends. Saier, who lives at Almond and Westmoreland Streets, is a walking encyclopedia of Port Richmond history and family ancestry and can usually be found on her porch watching over A&W playground.

PROP has always put the betterment, safety, and security of Port Richmond as their goal and mission statement and have consistently worked hand and hand with the Captain and Police Officers of the 24th Police District.

PROP was also one of the first town watches in the City of Philadelphia to embrace and participate in the National Night Out Program, which they still help organize every August in a citywide event. Furthermore, PROP is a proud ally of Operation Town Watch, an organization dedicated to the development and promotion of organized law enforcement-affiliated crime and drug prevention programs. Members include: Neighborhood, Crime, Community, Town and Block Watch Groups; law enforcement agencies; state and regional crime prevention associations; and a variety of businesses, civic groups and concerned individuals working to make their communities safer places in which to live and work.

HONORING JEFFREY CHEATHAM

HON. MARK SANFORD

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Jeffrey Cheatham, who died on October 3, 2013, at the age of 51. His mother and my friend, Patricia McVay, tells me that his life was full of adventure and love, and he will be missed by many. As I thought about how challenging this time is for Jeff's family and friends, a few thoughts struck me.

First, I couldn't help but think of the parable of the talents, and how that story reminds us that we ought to make the most out of what we are given each and every day. The parable describes a master who traveled away and left his money with his servants. Upon his return, he discovers that two of his servants invested and doubled the value of their portions, while one servant hid the money and protected it. The master rewarded the two who made the most of their time and his wealth, and punished the one who didn't take advantage of the opportunity. The bigger picture here is simple—we all have limited time, and we have to make the most out of what we are given.

I think Jeff's approach to life and those around him is a good example of that. From what I've been told, Jeff lived a life that was truly in service to others, and he made the most out of his time. His good attitude, jokes

and infectious smile were known to many, and I was told several stories of how he took a friend's parents to chemo then treated them to a lunch after, or how, when he was in school, he gave lunch money to a classmate, or even just how his smile could really light up a room. The gift of life is significant, and there can be an even greater gift in truly living and making the most of your time—as Malcom Forbes' tombstone says: "While alive, he lived."

Second, Jeff's passing should also serve as a reminder of the many challenges and difficulties faced by those who choose to put on the military uniform. Coming from a military family and serving four years in the Air Force, Jeff was no stranger to those challenges, and as such, we should honor and remember the sacrifices he and all our service members make.

I have no doubt that Jeff leaves behind many fond memories with his friends and family, especially his three children, Jenna, Kylie, and Phillip. I join his family in being saddened by this loss, but I'm comforted in knowing that there are many people out there who got to experience Jeff's kindness, and who will miss him dearly.

FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE INCREASES

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, my Rhode Island communities have been battered. They have been battered by the financial crisis and a slowly recovering economy, and they have been battered by Mother Nature, from the floods of 2010 to Superstorm Sandy in 2012. Now, as we finally emerge from the worst economy since the Great Depression, our citizens who managed to hold on to their homes through economic hardship and uncertainty are facing yet another challenge—sharp rate increases to their flood insurance policies.

We need to pass the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act today, and send it on to the President for his signature. Our communities cannot wait any longer for relief from steep rate increases. Rhode Island families have told me they are facing flood insurance rates upwards of \$35,000, and they are scared of losing their homes. This is simply unconscionable.

This legislation passed the Senate last Thursday with a strong bipartisan vote of 67–32; 182 bipartisan Members in the House are cosponsors of the House companion legislation. There is no reason for the Republican House Leadership to deny us a vote on this critical relief.

Implementing a delay in rate increases will give FEMA the time it needs to complete an affordability study and develop recommendations to assist homeowners who cannot afford their premiums. Without it, thousands of our middle-class homeowners will continue to suffer from the uncertainty of not knowing whether the cost of flood insurance will make homeownership unaffordable.

I urge my colleagues to support consideration of the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act, and provide immediate relief for our families and communities.

HONORING DRAPER INC.

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Draper Inc. in Spiceland on being named America's Healthiest Workplace by Healthiest Employers, a leader in corporate wellness and health analytics.

This company, in my home district, was ranked first place among 100 national finalists. The prestigious award included a year-long selection process and involved companies of all sizes and industries.

Draper established a safety and wellness committee to raise awareness of the stressors that drive unhealthy habits. That committee has increased its capacity to giving Draper employees the tools to succeed. The committee members volunteer their time to plan, organize, and run wellness events.

Draper is an example of a company rallying around physical activity and healthy living to improve an entire community's quality of life.

As members of Congress, we need to continue to promote and encourage health and overall wellness in our communities. In turn, our wellness initiatives will encourage a healthier American people.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION IN- SURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7, the deceptively titled "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act." Let's be clear, federal policy—including the Affordable Care Act—already prohibits the use of taxpayer dollars to fund abortions, except in the cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.

The bill on the floor today would dramatically restrict the freedom of women to use their own money to purchase health insurance that covers reproductive health services including abortion. Under the bill, women and families would be denied access to tax credits to purchase any health plan in the health insurance Marketplaces that includes abortion services even if they use their own money to pay for coverage for those services. Additionally, the bill would deny small business owners tax credits if they offer coverage that includes abortion to their employees even though large employers can still offer such tax exempt coverage. Under this bill, millions of American women would be denied access to comprehensive reproductive health care—whether they purchase insurance in the Marketplaces or receive it through their employers.

Madam Speaker, a woman's right to choose her own health care is fundamental and today's bill is a direct attack on that right. This bill was a mistake the first time it was proposed, and it remains a mistake today. I urge my colleagues to reject this assault on women

and instead I urge House Republicans to focus on extending unemployment insurance for millions of Americans who are out of work through no fault of their own.

HONORING ROSY CHU

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Rosy Chu for her extraordinary career in television and community affairs on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Chu is retiring after more than forty-two years of dedicated service with KTVU FOX 2 and KICU TV36, where she has served as Director of Community Affairs and Public Service since 1989.

A proud San Francisco native, Ms. Chu graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Communication Arts. She was one of the first women of Asian descent to work in the television industry, and was the first Asian American woman to host and produce a regularly scheduled talk show in the San Francisco Bay Area. She began her career with KTVU FOX 2 in 1971 as a secretary in the art department before moving on to a number of producer roles. From 1985 to 1988, Ms. Chu was the Producer of "2 at Noon," which was the first newscast outside The Ten O'Clock News on KTVU FOX 2. She became the Director of Community Affairs and Public Service in 1989.

During her tenure at KTVU FOX 2, Ms. Chu has served as an ambassador for the station and has been a tremendous asset to the community. She has assisted non-profit agencies, service organizations and community interest groups in obtaining access to media to roll out key messages on social needs and issues. Ms. Chu reached a broad constituency through hosting and producing "Bay Area People," a long-running and award winning public affairs program featuring educational and community issues. Ms. Chu has also traveled throughout California, China and Australia, allowing her to meet with diverse members of communities to host and produce a number of documentaries.

Ms. Chu is keenly committed to community leadership. She joined Asians in Mass Media and the National Asian American Telecommunications early in the start of her career. Ms. Chu served on the founding Board of Directors for the San Francisco Chapter of the Asian American Journalist Association, in addition to being the first Asian American on the Board of Governor's for the San Francisco Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. In 2005, Ms. Chu was inducted into the exclusive Silver Circle Club of the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences, Northern California Chapter.

She has also earned myriad accolades, including eight nominations and one award from the Northern California Emmy Awards. She has been recognized by numerous community groups and national organizations including: the Take a Bigger Role Life Savers Video Excellence Award; the National Association of Broadcaster's Children's Television Award; the New York Film and Video Festival Awards;